

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

SUBJECT: Aluminum Wiring Repair Recommendations

DATE OF MEETING: March 26, 2010

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Andrew Trotta, ESEE *AT*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: April 20, 2010

LOCATION: U.S. CPSC, Bethesda Towers

CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Douglas Lee, Division of Electrical Engineering (ESEE)
Andrew Trotta, ESEE

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Peter Pollak

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. Pollak requested that CPSC staff revisit the assessment of small gauge aluminum branch circuit wiring as being hazardous. He asked CPSC staff if any data had been compiled on either the implementation of the CPSC-recommended repair or on the continued occurrence of incidents. He suggested that 30-plus years of field data has not necessarily supported that aluminum wire is inherently more hazardous than copper in residential branch circuits. He also asked CPSC staff if there was any interest in participating with him in a study of the data.

Staff acknowledged that a comprehensive review of data has not been recently undertaken and not all installations exhibit the same rates of failure due to many confounding factors such as the properties of the particular wire. However, staff indicated that no new technical data has been presented to refute that failing aluminum wire connections are generally unstable and overheating failure of any one of those connections poses a risk of fire ignition. Staff further indicated that the recommendations in *Repairing Aluminum Wiring*, CPSC Publication No. 516, may or may not be followed based on the individual assessment of the perception of the risks involved. Accordingly, staff had no basis for reconsideration of the current recommendations. Staff indicated that they are in the process of updating Publication No. 516 to consider possible alternative repair methods.

Staff thanked Mr. Pollak for the opportunity to potentially work together on a data project but would need to balance that with the agency's available resources and priorities. Mr. Pollak indicated that he was interested in meeting with Chairman Tenenbaum to present his proposal.

CPSC 6(b)(1) CLEARED for PUBLIC

X NO MFRS/PRVT LBLS OR
PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED *5/26/10*

— EXCEPTED BY: PETITION
RULEMAKING ADMIN. PRCDG

— WITH PORTIONS REMOVED: _____